

Message Text

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ORIGIN IO-03

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /004 R

66611
DRAFTED BY: IO/CH:SDSCHIFF:AMP
APPROVED BY: IO/CH-STANLEY D. SCHIFF
----- 072161
R 082232Z MAY 75
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

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FOLLOWING REPEAT GENEVA 3259 ACTION SECSTATE 6 MAY.

QUOTE

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EO: 11652: N/A
TAGS: ECE UN
SUBJ: ECE - HABITAT

REF: STATE 104855; GENEVA 2936

1. SWEDISH INITIATIVE TO HOLD ECE REGIONAL MEETING FOR HABITAT PRIOR TO REGULARLY SCHEDULED HBP MEETING IN SEPTEMBER CAME AS SURPRISE TO SECRETARIAT AND DELEGATIONS ATTENDING ECE PLENARY. THIS INITIATIVE OCCASIONED BY RESCHEDULING OF PREPCOM MEETING TO AUGUST WHICH MADE PRIOR REGIONAL MEETINGS DESIRABLE. HABITAT WAS PLANNED AS MAJOR ITEM FOR REGULAR HBP MEETING.

2. DURING DISCUSSION OF SWEDISH PROPOSAL ONLY STRONG SUPPORT CAME FROM SCANDINAVIANS, CANADA AND UK. US TOOK POSITION THAT MEETING SHOULD BE CONVENED SINCE A NUMBER OF COUNTRIES WERE IN FAVOR ALTHOUGH RECOGNIZING THAT SHORT TIME FOR PREPARATION WOULD CREATE DIFFICULTY.

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3. EASTERN COUNTRIES WERE OPPOSED ON GROUNDS THAT EXPERTS FULLY

COMMITTED AND THAT ADDITIONAL MEETING WOULD CAUSE UNNECESSARY BURDEN. IN ATTEMPT AT COMPROMISE, FRG SUGGESTED THAT MEETING BE HELD AT TIME OF WORKING PARTY ON BUILDING (23-27 JUNE) AND WORKING ON HOUSING (30 JUNE - 4 JULY) IN ORDER PERMIT EXPERTS FROM EITHER MEETING TO PARTICIPATE IN HABITAT CONSULTATION.

4. AGREEMENT ON DATES OF 30 JUNE - 1 JULY, WHICH FALL BETWEEN TWO MEETINGS OF WORKING PARTIES, REPRESENTED DELICATE COMPROMISE IN ORDER TO PERSUADE EASTERN AND SOME WESTERN COUNTRIES NOT TO BLOCK CONSENSUS. IT WAS RECOGNIZED THAT PENALOSA MIGHT NOT BE AVAILABLE BUT THAT HE COULD BE REPRESENTED BY A DEPUTY. VIEWS OF GOVERNMENTS ON THE DATES WERE RIGHTFULLY CONSIDERED MORE IMPORTANT.

5. SECRETARIAT WILL BE HARD PRESSED TO PREPARE AGENDA AND BACKGROUND PAPERS FOR THIS MEETING. WOULD APPRECIATE ANY ADVICE OR ASSISTANCE WE MIGHT BE IN A POSITION TO OFFER.

6. IN VIEW OF EXPLANATION GIVEN OBAVE CHANGE IN DATES FOR ECE CONSULTATION WOULD NOT BE FEASIBLE.ABRAMS UNQUOTE KISSINGER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLICIES, REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS, MEETINGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 08 MAY 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: MorefiRH
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975STATE107874
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: IO/CH:SDSCHIFF:AMP
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750162-0880
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750568/aaaackjz.tel
Line Count: 80
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN IO
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 STATE 104855, 75 GENEVA 2936
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: MorefiRH
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 MAY 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <05 MAY 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <21 MAY 2003 by MorefiRH>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ECE - HABITAT
TAGS: SENV, ECE, UN
To: OTTAWA
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006